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A full color electronic version of this newsletter can be found on our website.

November 2019



The



Advocate

President's Message >>>

NEA Member Benefits

As a member of our association you also have access to a multitude of valuable NEA Benefits. Among them are

- Discounts on
 - new vehicles
 - 1-800-Flowers
 - Costco
 - AT&T
 - others
- Travel at great rates!
- Personal Finance such as Student Loans and Credit
- Retirement Planning
- So much more!

Call 1-800-637-4636 or use the website at

<https://www.neamb.com/>

Welcome new ACEA Members!

Unit 4

Carlie Peck

SP

Candace Lawrence

SP

Red and Blue = Green? Changing the paradigm of public education funding

The formation of the Kirwan Commission in 2016 was the beginning of efforts to address the inadequacies in public education in Maryland, most significantly, the gross underfunding.

Colors can have an affect on many things: thoughts, memories, appearance, perception, and yes, purchases. There is even an entire area of psychology devoted to colors and their impact.

We too know the impact that color can have. Through our combined efforts both near and far, educators across our country have established the power and influence of the color red and our #RedForEd movement, with ACEA playing a proud part!

Our #RedForEd efforts in Maryland over the last several years have now produced something of a different color: The Blueprint for Maryland's Future. This 2019 legislation was considered the first step, or downpayment, for a series of expanded educational programs and increased funding to address the needs of students in public education. As part of this, we bargained for the average of 3% salary increase for Units 1 and 4, and

realized the Teacher Salary Enhancement Grant. All because of our work to have educators recognized as an important component and investment. Hence, green from red and blue!

**"Mere color
can speak to
the soul in a
thousand
different ways.**

-Oscar Wilde

But our need for such magic is not yet done, as the larger funding proposal will be addressed during the forthcoming legislative session. So, keep the red handy and ready for action! Thank you to all who attended the Ten Minute

Meeting at your worksite, and especially to those who took part in the ACEA/MSEA Blueprint Community Forum on October 3.

In solidarity and service,

Kim

Kimberly Sloane

ksloane@mseanea.org



UniServ Minute

Evan West

The word “process” seems to be in the news quite a bit these days. Depending on which side of a debate you’re on, it’s either a minor detail made into a major mess to hamper the will of the people or it’s a sacred institution designed to protect the voice of the minority. The truth is that both can be true at the same time and neither uniformly applicable to any specific situation.

Insofar as the appointment of the permanent Superintendent of Schools for Allegany County is concerned, ACEA made it known as soon as Dr. Cox left that we wanted our members to have a voice in who the next Superintendent would be. We wanted and want our members to be part of the process, but that input is about so much more than a process in and of itself.

Your expertise is vital. Your professional judgement is invaluable. You should be part of any major decision affecting the school system. The current Elected Board told us that you would be part of who would become the next Superintendent. That simply didn’t happen in this case.

It’s discouraging, because this Board had been making a better effort to involve ACEA in many different decisions, but this one is a huge one. The BOE only gets to hire one permanent super every four years. Your voice should be part of that.

To be clear, Mr. Blank has done an admirable job so far. But to be free of favoritism and truly inclusionary, all stakeholders, not just ACEA, should have a chance to weigh in.

The recent decision of the State Superintendent is a chance to reset and do it right. ACEA stands ready to be part of what is about so much more than just a “process”.

2019 MSEA CONVENTION

14 ACEA members attended the MSEA Convention this year. Pictured L to R are: (first row) Kelly Griffin (SP) Kim Sloane (ACEA President), Stewart Monroe, Jr. (CCTE), Peggy Bass (MS), Dawn Riley-Shepetuk (AL), and Susan Sommers (SP). (Second row) Sarah Llewellyn (WT), Jason Huber (CO), Mark Malone (FO), Keith Mikula (FO), Nick Amick (AL), and Debbie Weisenmüller (MS). Delegate Susan Sommers was also accompanied by Oona, her newest trainee for Canine Companions for Independence, shown here relaxing on the floor of the OC Convention Center.

TOYS FOR HAPPINESS 2019



Kim, ready to deliver our 2018 TFH collection.

Even though the weather outside is nowhere close to being frightful yet, the holiday season is frightfully close. Since 2005, ACTA/ACEA, in conjunction with ACPS, has hosted an annual Denim Day for Toys for Happiness collection to support this local charity and help spread the spirit of giving. In light of the new ACPS policy of every Friday being Denim Day, we have agreed to make **Tuesday, December 3** the Denim Day for Toys for Happiness this year. So, if you ate a bit too much for Thanksgiving, you can ease back into school with some forgiving denim! Toys and cash donations will be accepted at each work location that day as well. Last year, we collected and donated an astounding 164 toys and \$3,280 in monetary donations! Let’s make this 20th year of our Denim Day for Toys for Happiness the best yet!

ACEA Calendar >>>

November 1-2 – Local Officers Advance in Annapolis

November 5 – BOE Meeting 6:00 p.m.

November 11-15 – American Education Week

November 13 – National ESP Day!

November 18 – ACEA Board of Directors and Representative Assembly 4 p.m.

November 27 – 3- hour early dismissal

November 28 - December 2 - Schools closed for Thanksgiving Break

SAVE THE DATE! DECEMBER 3 – Toys for Happiness Denim Donation Day

